

REPORT

FROM THE

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

IN COMPLIANCE

*With a resolution of the Senate of the 23d instant, on the subject of instructions to receivers and collectors in relation to the receipt of bank notes in payments to the Government.*

MAY 24, 1838.

Read, and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

May 24, 1838.

SIR : This report is submitted in compliance with the following resolution :

" *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Treasury and the Postmaster General be severally directed to inform the Senate whether any orders or instructions have been given by them, respectively, to the collectors or receivers of the public revenue, or to deputy postmasters, to receive the notes of any bank or banks in payments to the Government, and, if any, what bank or banks. And they are further directed, in the contingency of any such instructions having been given, to communicate copies thereof to the Senate."

It is presumed that the inquiry relates to any recent "orders or instructions" "to receive the notes of any bank or banks in payments to the Government." Orders and instructions on this point have been given and made public on many occasions, at various periods, since the passage of the act of Congress of September, 1789, which first prescribed what should be received in payment of duties. Copies of most of them could be furnished if desired. But since the general suspension of specie payments in May last, no new orders or instructions concerning such notes have been issued by this department, or any modifications been made in those previously existing. These last, therefore, remain in full force, except so far as they have been altered by acts of Congress. Whenever inquiries have been made in relation to this, by public officers or others, the substance of these facts has been stated in reply. A copy of a portion of a letter to the collector of New York is annexed, as showing the general character of the numerous answers to such inquiries.

Respectfully,

LEVI WOODBURY,  
*Secretary of the Treasury.*

HON. RICHARD M. JOHNSON,  
*President of the Senate.*

*Extract of a letter dated*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
April 23, 1838.

SIR: In regard to the inquiry you make whether the resumption of specie payments on the part of some of the banks in your city will make it necessary for you to change the course of business at the custom-house, I have to remark, that the department is not aware that any change is yet necessary. It is hoped, however, that some duties will now be paid in money. Under the former and existing practice as to duties, they can be paid in the notes of specie paying banks, when at par in New York, provided the notes are not those of abnks which, since the 4th of July, 1836, have issued notes under five dollars, these being prohibited by the 5th section of the "Act to regulate the deposits of the public money," approved the 23d of June, 1836.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

LEVI WOODBURY,  
*Secretary of the Treasury.*

JESSE HOYT, Esq.,

*Collector of the Customs, New York.*

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LEVI WOODBURY,  
*Secretary of the Treasury.*

HON. RICHARD M. JOHNSON,  
*President of the Senate.*  
Ball & Rivers, printers.